Australian Journal of Taxonomy

Open-access, online, rapid taxonomy

Introducing the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*, a new, fully-online, fully open-access journal for the rapid publication of new Australian species and other taxa

Kevin R. Thiele, Mark S. Harvey, Pat Hutchings, Tom W. May, Jane Melville & Kenny J. Travouillon

Australian Journal of Taxonomy 1: 1–7. doi: https://doi.org/10.54102/ajt.qxi3r (11 May 2022)

Corrigendum

10 October 2022

The following address for author Kevin Thiele was deleted:

Western Australian Herbarium, Biodiversity and Conservation Science, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Western Australia 6983.

DOI for this corrigendum: https://doi.org/10.54102/ajt.m4bkz

Australian Journal of Taxonomy
Open-access, online, rapid taxonomy

Introducing the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*, a new, fully-online, fully open-access journal for the rapid publication of new Australian species and other taxa

Kevin R. Thiele [1*], Mark S. Harvey [2, 1], Pat Hutchings [3], Tom W. May [4], Jane Melville [5, 6] & Kenny J. Travouillon [2]

[1] School of Biological Sciences, University of Western Australia, Crawley, Western Australia 6009, Australia.
[2] Collections & Research, Western Australian Museum, 49 Kew Street, Welshpool, Western Australia 6106, Australia.
[3] Australian Museum Research Institute, Australian Museum, 1 College Street, Sydney, New South Wales 2010, Australia.
[4] Science Division, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia.
[5] Department of Sciences, Museums Victoria, Carlton Gardens, Victoria 3052, Australia.
[6] School of Biological Sciences, Monash University, Wellington Rd, Clayton, Victoria 3800, Australia.
*Corresponding author: kevin.thiele@science.org.au

© Copyright of this paper is retained by its authors, who, unless otherwise indicated, license its content under a CC BY 4.0 license

Abstract

With this paper we introduce the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* and outline its scope, rationale, workflow and governance. The journal is published by Taxonomy Australia, a national collaboration by the Australian taxonomic community. *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is one of the world's first fully-online journals. Papers are born-digital and born-online: they are authored on the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* online platform, and all subsequent steps (peer-review, editing, copy editing and publication) take place on that platform. At no stage does a paper in *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* need to exist as a document in a word-processing application. This fully-online processing substantially eases and accelerates workflows, and reduces the costs of production and publishing to a minimum. For these reasons, *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is also diamond open access, with no access charges for either authors or readers. *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is optimised for the rapid publication of new Australian taxa across all eukaryotic organismal groups (animals, fungi, plants etc.), and is part of the overarching strategy of Taxonomy Australia to substantially accelerate the discovery and taxonomic documentation of Australia's biodiversity.

Cite this paper as: Thiele KR, Harvey MS, Hutchings P, May TW, Melville J, Travouillon KJ (2022) Introducing the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*, a new, fully-online, fully open-access journal for the rapid publication of new Australian species and other taxa. *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* 1: 1–7. doi: https://doi.org/10.54102/ajt.qxi3r

This paper was submitted on 27 April 2022 and published on 11 May 2022 (2022-05-11T04:09:29.372+08:00 UTC). It was reviewed by members of the Taxonomy Australia Steering Committee. Australian Journal of Taxonomy. ISSN: 2653-4649 (Online).

Kevin R. Thiele https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6658-6636; Mark S. Harvey https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9901-9921; Pat Hutchings https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7521-3930; Tom W. May https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2214-4972; Jane Melville https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9994-6423; Kenny J. Travouillon https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1734-4742;

Introduction

Australian Journal of Taxonomy is an innovative new journal published by Taxonomy Australia, with a specific goal to accelerate the documentation of Australia's biodiversity by providing an efficient and effective platform for the rapid publication of new species and other taxa.

Taxonomy—the discovery, documentation and classification of the Earth's species and other taxa—is a fundamentally important discipline. Taxonomists provide the 'map' by which others, from biodiversity and conservation scientists to the general public, navigate the complexities of the living world. Without the framework and map provided by taxonomy, many other critically important and impactful scientific research disciplines would be greatly compromised.

However, the rate of taxonomic progress is currently too slow given the scale of the task and the urgency created by a rapidly accelerating extinction crisis. In Australia, the best estimate is that 70% of all marine and terrestrial species remain undiscovered and unnamed, and at current rate (i.e. the average number of new species named per year) it will take more than four centuries to complete the task of documenting our biodiversity (Taxonomy Decadal Plan Working Group 2018).

To begin addressing this problem, the Australian taxonomy community has established Taxonomy Australia, a national collaboration that is a program of the Australian Academy of Science. Taxonomy Australia is governed by a Steering Committee and Advisory Committee comprising leaders in the field who represent the Australian taxonomy and biosystematics community. Taxonomy Australia aims to implement the recommendations of the Decadal Plan for Taxonomy and Biosystematics (Taxonomy Decadal Plan Working Group, 2018) by increasing the profile and understanding of taxonomy and biosystematics in the community and with government and industry. The overarching purpose is to advocate for and support a substantial acceleration in the rate at which new Australian species and other taxa are documented.

Taxonomy Australia in turn is pleased to launch *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* as a contribution towards accelerating taxonomic endeavour. Three innovations in *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* will contribute to accelerating taxonomic publication in Australia.

Firstly, *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is a *fully-online* journal. Contributions are authored, reviewed, edited, typeset and published in an integrated online platform. At no stage does a contribution to *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* need to exist as a document in a word processing application (unless an author chooses to write some content off-line and paste it into the online editing platform later). Instead, the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* platform comprises a series of online forms with prescribed but flexible fields for all content. Once a paper has been authored, peer-reviewed, edited and approved for publication, it is automatically formatted and published directly on the platform, with no manual typesetting. *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is among the world's first journals to move fully online.

Secondly, *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* does not impose strict style and formatting constraints. A feature of virtually all journals, including taxonomic journals, is tight editorial control over style including content, referencing, specimen citations, etc. Style prescriptions are frequently somewhat idiosyncratic, and often do not add significantly to the quality, accuracy or clarity of content; rather, they are intended to ensure consistency within the journal as a whole. In *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*, many of these style constraints are removed. There is no requirement for all contributions to be styled the same; the only requirement is that styles conform with best practice, do not hinder clear and unambiguous presentation of content, and are applied consistently within a contribution.

Thirdly, an important editorial and peer-review philosophy of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is that content must be adequate but not excessive for high-quality taxonomy. In some taxonomic communities of practice there has been a gradual escalation in expectations of taxonomic publications. Authors are expected by some journal editors and reviewers to describe new taxa in excessive detail, including the description of morphological characters that are not diagnostic in the group, and the inclusion of numerous illustrations and line drawings of structures that are taxonomically superfluous or of limited diagnostic value. This substantially slows the publication of new species. Authors, reviewers and editors of contributions to *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*, by contrast, are enjoined to find a balance, ensuring high-quality taxonomy and the provision of adequate information for every new taxon while at the same time ensuring that descriptions of new taxa can be completed in a fast, efficient and effective manner. Authors should present the set of morphological, molecular and/or other characters appropriate for the group under study. The end-goal—to contribute to an acceleration of taxonomic documentation while not compromising the quality of that documentation—should be kept in mind at all times by authors, editors and reviewers.

Scope

Each issue of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* will comprise a single contribution. This may be the description of a single species or other taxon, a miscellany paper with a range of taxa, or a small taxonomic revision. In general, comprehensive taxonomic revisions, such as papers containing extensive analyses of characters and/or multiple phylogenetic trees, are likely to be more appropriately published in more conventional journals.

The scope of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is restricted to taxonomic publications dealing with Australian terrestrial and marine taxa. The definition of 'Australian marine' is loose, and taxonomic publications relating to Australia's surrounding oceans, including the Southern Ocean between Australia and Antarctica, will be considered. Where a group of organisms is treated, it is acceptable to include one or a few species restricted to nearby geographic areas that fall outside of Australia.

Taxa covered are the eukaryotes, for which the current codes of nomenclature are the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999) and the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (Turland et al. 2018) with updates for fungi in *Chapter F* (May et al. 2019). For prokaryotes (bacteria and archaea), names of new taxa published under the *International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes* (Parker et a. 2019) may only be published in the *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology*; hence there is no need at present for a rapid-publication taxonomic journal such as *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* to include taxonomic novelties for prokaryotes.

Access

Australian Journal of Taxonomy is a diamond open access journal (Fuchs & Sandoval 2013); that is, there are no access charges for either authors or readers. The fully-online publishing platform allows this, by streamlining the handling of contributions and removing the need for manual typesetting, hence reducing running costs for the journal. As with many academic journals, editing and reviewing is unpaid. The only fixed costs of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* are the costs of running the website and maintaining an ISSN (borne by Taxonomy Australia), and minting of DOIs.

Code compliance

Australian Journal of Taxonomy is fully compliant with the provisions for online publishing in the international codes of nomenclature for zoology and for algae, fungi and plants. Published contributions are made available in Portable Document Format (PDF) using the PDF/A archival standard. Being an online publication, all new taxa in zoology and mycology will require registration in appropriate registries (ZooBank, MycoBank). There is provision for recording a registration number or URL in the online editing form. Once published, contributions to *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* can never be altered or edited in any way.

Published PDFs will be available from the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* home page (https://www.taxonomyaustralia.org.au/ajt/home) and the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL; https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/). Each contribution will be lodged with the ISSN National Centre for Australia, as required under the provisions of the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). The archiving of papers with BHL will assure that all papers published in *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* will be permanently and freely accessible to the taxonomy community in Australia and internationally.

Australian Journal of Taxonomy workflow

Contributions to *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* are authored online. The starting point for authoring a contribution is the author's dashboard, accessible from the Taxonomy Australia website (https://www.taxonomyaustralia.org.au/). The dashboard is used to track papers through authoring, peer-review and editing to final publication. Contributions at any stage (except while undergoing peer review) are accessible from the dashboard for editing, and new papers can be commenced there. Access to the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* dashboard requires that a user signs up to the Taxonomy Australia website and is logged in.

Papers are authored by writing formattable text in a series of editable fields on editing forms. There are separate forms for the body of the paper (introduction, materials & methods etc.) and for taxon sections. Some fields (e.g. title, author fields, abstract) are mandatory; others (e.g. introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, acknowledgments, references) are optional, while others still are conditionally mandatory (e.g. some content of zoological and mycological papers must be registered with ZooBank or MycoBank, respectively, prior to publication; registration is not currently required for content related to algae or plants). Optional fields can be displayed or hidden using a checkbox list at the top of the form. This structure allows a paper to be customised from, e.g., a simple, single-species paper with an introduction and taxon fields (see below) but no results or discussion section, to a fully-featured paper with materials and methods, discussion and results with or without a taxonomy section. Purely nomenclatural papers (concerning, for example, priority, availability, legitimacy, validity or typification) are also supported.

There are two formatting limitations of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* relevant to images and tables. Images are limited in number and will not be intercalated within the text but instead gathered into one or more blocks. Up to five captioned images, including phylogenetic trees, may be included to illustrate the general section of the paper (introduction etc.). These will be page-set in a block before the Taxonomy section. Each image may be a collage. Tables are difficult to deal with natively using online forms, because the structure of tables is highly variable. Accordingly, tables need to be created off-site and included in the paper as an image.

Taxa are dealt with in a Taxonomy section, accessed through a separate form. A paper may include zero to many taxa. Taxa are added to the Taxonomy section, then edited independently. As with the paper in general, each taxon section comprises a number of mandatory fields (name, typification, description etc.), optional

fields (e.g. synonymy, specimens examined) and conditionally mandatory fields (e.g. registration). A Notes field may include as many headings as required and is fully flexible. Each taxon may have up to five captioned images, and these will be page-set in a block after each taxon. Each image may be a collage.

Detailed instructions and guidance for authors are given as help text after each field, and in help pages accessible from the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* home page and author's dashboard.

While a contribution is being edited, it and its individual taxon sections may be saved and re-opened as many times as necessary. As each taxon is completed, a checkbox allows it to be saved as 'Done'. Done taxa are marked as such in the taxon list on the paper's editing page. Taxa may be ordered and re-ordered as required.

When a paper is complete, a checkbox allows it to be saved and submitted. A check of mandatory fields is completed by the platform before the paper can be successfully submitted. Once submitted, the paper is marked 'In review' in the dashboard. While papers are in review they may be viewed but not edited by the author(s). For each paper submitted, a Subject Editor is assigned to the paper by the Editorial Committee. The Subject Editor solicits two reviews.

Reviewing. As with authoring, all reviewing is done using online forms. In the reviewers' view of a paper each content field is followed by a field for reviewer comments, corrections or suggestions. At the end of the paper, fields are provided for general review comments to authors and editors, and for a decision. A reviewer will be able to open, save, and return to their review as many times as necessary, until done. Once reviewed, the reviewer will record their decision, mark the paper as reviewed, and commit their review.

In keeping with the intent and approach of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*, reviewers are asked to carefully consider all review comments and to keep in mind at all times that the intention of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is to facilitate the rapid, efficient and effective publication of new taxa. Reviewers are asked to take due regard of issues in a paper that reduce its taxonomic merit, but not to impose burdensome requirements that add minimal taxonomic value. In keeping also with the intent and approach of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*, reviewers are advised to assess internal stylistic consistency, adequacy and clarity within a contribution, but not to be concerned if styled elements within a paper under review differ slightly from other papers in the journal.

Post-review workflow. Once a paper has cleared review, it is listed as Reviewed in the author's dashboard. Authors are then able to read and deal with reviewers' comments, marking comments as Done as they go. Once all review comments have been dealt with and the paper saved, it will be checked by the Subject Editor. Two sign-offs are required, one by the corresponding author and one by the Subject Editor, before the paper proceeds to typesetting and publication. Final steps include finalisation of publication details (citation and DOI registration) and the automatic generation of a final PDF.

Multi-authoring. A paper may have multiple authors. The primary author has full control of the paper including submission and dealing with the post-review workflow. The primary author may allow others to edit either the general section of the paper or individual taxa. Access by secondary authors to the paper is gained by the primary author sending a semi-secure URL. The URL is semi-secure because any recipient of the URL has edit rights to that portion of the paper, as long as they are a member of the Taxonomy Australia website and are logged in; the URL is unguessable, preventing casual or unauthorised access by others. There are currently no safeguards against editing clashes if two users try to edit the same portion of the paper at the same time. Ensuring that multi-author editing workflows do not cause editing clashes is the responsibility of authors.

Security. Papers being authored on the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* website are hidden from search engine indexers, so content is secure until final publication.

Data structures

The *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* platform comprises a series of database tables, forms for editing, viewing and managing content, and a javascript code-base. One table holds general paper content (title, author information, abstract and fields such as introduction, materials & methods, references etc.) while another holds taxon content, with one record per taxon. All taxa are linked with the paper of which they are a part. Records in these tables are duplicated when the paper is submitted, with the duplicates being used to handle reviewer comments and author responses to reviewer comments.

Links to national and international biodiversity information repositories

An advantage of the fully-online platform provided by *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is that all data constituting a taxonomic publication are stored, from creation to publication and beyond, in an online database. An inefficiency in the current management of national and global biodiversity information is that much information is created offline and comes online only at the time of publication, and then often in formats (e.g. PDF) that are relatively intractable for machine content harvesting and indexing. For example, most information in the important National Species Lists (NSL) and Australian Faunal Directory (AFD)—key repositories of core taxonomic and nomenclatural information in Australia—are manually keyed in from published works. This takes time and is costly.

It has been apparent for some time that there are opportunities for the direct and automated harvesting, by web services, of much of the information needed by both nomenclatural and taxonomic repositories and platforms that provide descriptive treatments such as floras, faunas and fungas (May 2008). By storing taxonomic information in an underlying database, *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* will enable such automated harvesting. The Editorial Committee will actively collaborate with agencies that maintain and curate nomenclatural, taxonomic and descriptive databases, such as the Australian Biological Resources Study, to establish automated processes for data harvest. At first the focus will be on names, but over time, more integrations will be possible, such as for descriptive information. In addition, there is scope to set up processes to automatically pull relevant information into journal articles from external databases, such as for specimens cited, through repository (museum, herbarium or fungarium) accession identifiers, rather than typing such information into a manuscript.

An issue when data are stored electronically is controlling its life-cycle. At the time an *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* paper is published as a pdf, that document will become the normative version-of-record and much of the content stored in the database will be archived. However, metadata from all papers will remain permanently accessible, and may become increasingly important over time as metadata for the taxonomic acts in the published paper.

The *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* community

Australian Journal of Taxonomy is a journal for the Australian taxonomic community published by Taxonomy Australia, which represents and advocates for the taxonomic community.

In keeping with this, all contributors to *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* are encouraged to consider themselves as belonging to the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* community. Authors are strongly encouraged to review papers contributed by others in their field of expertise and to engage positively with invitations to become Subject Editors—that is, reviewing and editing should be regarded as shared activities across the entire *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* community. An Editorial Committee comprising an Editor-in-Chief and a panel of Associate Editors will have oversight of the process, but responsibility for ensuring the quality, smooth operation and timeliness of the workflow is broad-based through Subject Editors and referees.

Governance of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*

As a publication of Taxonomy Australia, overall governance of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* will lie with the Taxonomy Australia Steering Committee. This is a broad-based, representative committee comprising representatives from key sector peak bodies, associations and subsectors (e.g. universities, early and mid-career researchers). Day-to-day governance will be the responsibility of the Editorial Committee made up of the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors, all appointed by the Taxonomy Australia Steering Committee. Subject Editors will be appointed by the Editorial Committee, by invitation; nominations from interested researchers are encouraged.

Australian Journal of Taxonomy Publishing Policies

Ethical standards: The *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* and its editors will adhere to high standards of ethical behaviour at all times. Taxonomy Australia supports in all its dealings the core practices and principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Authoring: It will be the responsibility of the corresponding author to ensure that co-authors agree to a manuscript's submission, revision and publication. If at any stage during the publication process it is found that co-authors did not agree to the paper's submission or approval for publication, the paper will be immediately withdrawn from consideration by the journal. If after publication it is found that co-authors did not agree to the paper's submission, the submitting author may be sanctioned from future publication.

All authors of a publication must have contributed significantly to the paper's conception, design, drafting or revision, or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data. The order of authors' names should be an accurate reflection of their contributions. All contributors to a work who are not included as an author should be acknowledged.

Editors will not adjudicate authorship or acknowledgment disputes, but may reject a paper if such disputes cannot be resolved.

The corresponding author will be responsible for addressing questions that arise during and after the publication process.

Conflicts of interest: Conflicts of interest, and issues that could be perceived as a conflict of interest, including financial contributions, must be disclosed by the authors at the time the paper is submitted for publication, and such disclosures will be included in the final publication. A paper will not be accepted for publication without a clear indication that conflicts of interest are properly disclosed.

Reviewers and editors must disclose conflicts of interest before agreeing to review or edit a manuscript. Conflicts of interest that would preclude reviewing or editing a manuscript include serious and ongoing disagreements with the paper authors and active research with any of the paper's authors on the matter dealt with in the paper.

Reviewers and editors must not use or disclose knowledge of any manuscript under review or in edit before its publication.

Peer review: All contributions to *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* will be peer-reviewed after submission. Two reviewers will be chosen by the Subject Editor; the names of reviewers will not be disclosed until publication, and then only if the reviewer agrees to disclosure.

Authors may provide guidance on suitable and/or unsuitable reviewers. Editors will not be bound by authors' suggestions but will accommodate them whenever possible and appropriate.

A paper may be rejected by an editor before or after peer review; such rejection should be considered final, but may be appealed if the corresponding author is aware of or believes that they have been unfairly dealt with.

Oversight of editorial decisions will be provided by the Editorial Committee. If an issue cannot be dealt with reasonably in discussions with the relevant Subject Editor, an appeal should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief, for consideration by the Editorial Committee. Appeals will only be considered if there is clear evidence that the manuscript was improperly rejected. Decisions by the Editorial Committee will be final. If an issue involves the Editor-in-Chief, it should be referred to the Taxonomy Australia Steering Committee via the Chair of that Committee.

Scientific misconduct: Scientific misconduct including fabrication or falsification of data, deceptive manipulation of images, citation of specimens that have not been studied, plagiarism, and inappropriate language or content, will be grounds for automatic rejection of a manuscript.

Australian Journal of Taxonomy takes a stand against taxonomic vandalism—the publication of names that fulfil the technical requirements of the Codes of Nomenclature but are based on scientific misconduct and/or serious breaches of professional ethics and community standards of science, including the wholesale publication of taxonomies based on other people's work. Note that for work to qualify as taxonomic vandalism it must show a pattern of egregious behaviour over time. Mere taxonomic incompetence is not regarded as vandalism.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander biocultural knowledge and epithets: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander biocultural knowledge about novel taxa, including medicinal and other uses, should only be included after appropriate consultation, for which best practice is to implement co-design and close involvement at all stages of work, including co-authorship where warranted (AIATSIS 2020).

The use of epithets derived from First Nations languages is encouraged. However, such names should only be used after appropriate consultation with the relevant communities from which the epithets are derived. Many universities and other research institutions have Elders in Residence or equivalent programs, and these are likely to be good starting points to guide engagement. Simply trawling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander word-lists and using ones that seem appropriate, without consultation, is strongly discouraged. The only exception is use of First Nations words that are well-established in common usage, such as place names.

Epithets derived from First Nations languages, whether place names, proper names or adjectives, are best treated as indeclinable words in apposition, thus used with their original spelling (see e.g. Webb et al. 1999) rather than being Latinised and declined or having terminations such as *-ensis* added. This has the added advantage that the termination of an epithet treated in apposition does not need to match the gender of its generic name, or change if transferred to a genus of different gender.

Collecting permits: While *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* has no mechanism for checking that appropriate collecting permits were obtained for specimens used in a taxonomic study, full legal compliance with permitting requirements is expected.

Lodgement of type specimens: Holotypes for all new taxa published in *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* should be lodged in publicly accessible, appropriate Australian institutions wherever possible. Failure to do so will be considered a reasonable ground for rejection of a manuscript by an editor unless good reasons can be provided for not doing so (e.g., potential type material exists only in institutions elsewhere as a result of past practices).

Australian Journal of Taxonomy publishing policies will be regularly reviewed and updated by the Editorial Committee.

Conclusion

The *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* provides an opportunity for the Australian and international taxonomic community to substantially accelerate the taxonomic documentation of Australia's marine and terrestrial species of animals, fungi, plants and other organisms, by rapidly and straightforwardly writing and publishing high-quality taxonomic and nomenclatural papers using its innovative and efficient online platform. The launch of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* is timely, given the strong need to accelerate the documentation of Australia's biodiversity in the face of accelerating threats, declines and extinctions. We encourage all taxonomists working to document Australia's biodiversity to consider publishing their work in *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* and to join the *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* community of authors, editors and reviewers

Disclosures

There are no conflicts of interest to declare. None of the authors received financial support towards the preparation of this publication.

Acknowledgments

We thank the members of the Taxonomy Australia Steering Committee who provided valuable feedback on the concept, governance and operations of *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*, and the members of the Australian taxonomy and biosystematics community who supported the concept at a national taxonomy meeting in May 2020.

References

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) (2020) A Guide to applying The AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research. Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies: Canberra. https://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/aiatsis-guide-applying-code-ethics-guide-revised-march21.pdf

Fuchs C, Sandoval M (2013) The Diamond Model of open access publishing: why policy makers, scholars, universities, libraries, labour unions and the publishing world need to take non-commercial, non-profit open access seriously. *tripleC* 13(2): 428–443. DOI: https://doi.org/10.31269/triplec.v11i2.502

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1999) International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 4th edn. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London. https://www.iczn.org/the-code/the-code-online/

May TW (2008) An analysis and a vision for the publishing of plant and fungal taxonomy in Australia. *Australian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter* 136: 27–36.

May TW, Redhead SA, Bensch K, Hawksworth DL, Lendemer J, et al. (2019) Chapter F of the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants as approved by the 11th international mycological congress, San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 2018. *IMA Fungus* 10: 1–14. https://doi.org/10.1186/s43008-019-0019-1

Parker CT, Tindall BJ, Garrity GM (2019) International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes. Prokaryotic Code (2008 Revision). *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology* 69(1A): S1–S111. https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.000778

Taxonomy Decadal Plan Working Group (2018) Discovering biodiversity: a decadal plan for taxonomy and biosystematics in Australia and New Zealand 2018-2027. Australian Academy of Science and Royal Society Te Apārangi: Canberra and Wellington. https://www.science.org.au/support/analysis/decadal-plans-science/discovering-biodiversity-decadal-plan-taxonomy

Turland NJ, Wiersema JH, Barrie FR, Greuter W, Hawksworth DL, et al. (2018) International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (Shenzhen Code) adopted by the Nineteenth International Botanical Congress Shenzhen, China, July 2017. [Regnum Vegetabile no. 159]. Koeltz Botanical Books, Glashütten.

Webb CJ, Breitwieser I, Edgar E (1999) Orthography of some geographical epithets in the New Zealand flora revisited. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 747–749. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1999.9512668

This paper was typeset using Prince

www.princexml.com

END VERSION OF RECORD

A corrigendum to this paper has been published: see https://doi.org/10.54102/ajt.m4bkz

The corrigendum has been applied to this version of the paper